Pueblo
exchange
A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

Winter 2007

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Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

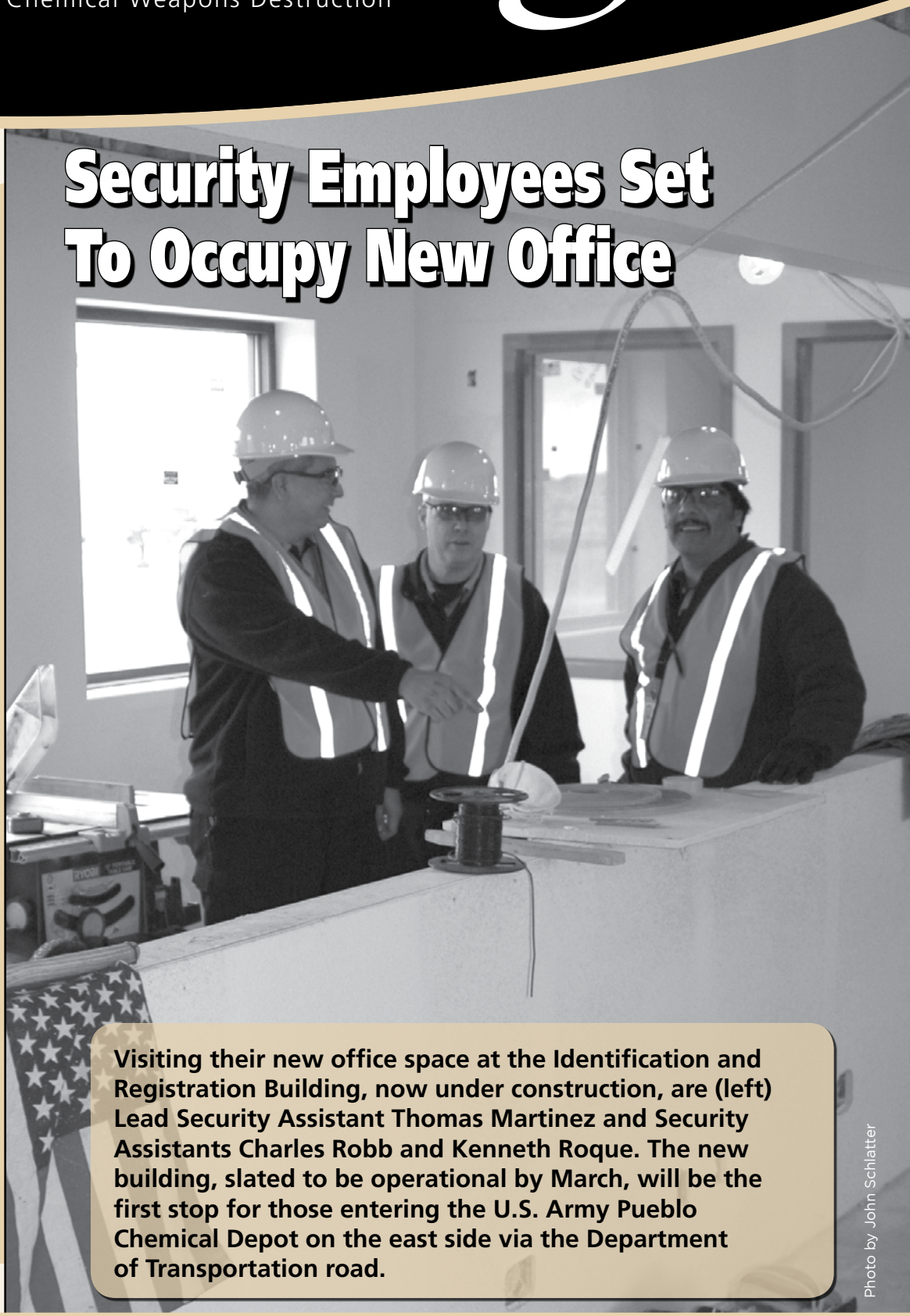
Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office
104 West B Street
Pueblo, CO 81003
(719) 546-0400
PuebloOutreach@bah.com
Hours 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., M–F
Other hours by appointment

U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot Public Affairs
(719) 549-4135

Bechtel Pueblo Public Communications
(719) 546-0400

www.pmacwa.army.mil

Security Employees Set To Occupy New Office



Visiting their new office space at the Identification and Registration Building, now under construction, are (left) Lead Security Assistant Thomas Martinez and Security Assistants Charles Robb and Kenneth Roque. The new building, slated to be operational by March, will be the first stop for those entering the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot on the east side via the Department of Transportation road.

Photo by John Schlatter

OPSEC Completed Jan. 24, 2007

Message From the Site Project Manager

Construction, Funding Discussions to Continue Into 2007

By GARY ANDERSON
Site Project Manager
Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives

We begin 2007 with a fresh outlook for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) project. This year will bring us new challenges, new accomplishments and new reasons to be proud of the work we're doing in the Pueblo community.

A new plant design will be completed within the next few months. As a result, the systems contractor, Bechtel, will phase out the design offices in Frederick, Md., and San Francisco and establish a resident engineering group in Pueblo. Construction activities include the completion of Stage 1A and 1B and the beginning of Stage 2 construction of the plant's ancillary buildings.

We expect discussion of funding and schedule to continue. The proposed funding rate of $150 million per year for the PCAPP project will allow us to complete our mission, although it will result in an extended schedule. We're expecting to develop a revised Acquisition Program Baseline in the coming year, and to continue discussions with the community about cost-saving options that could accelerate the project, including off-site shipment of hydrolysate.

You can also expect us to continually improve our safety program, building on our past success. On Dec. 31, project staff marked 2.3 million hours without a lost-time work injury. Safety, above all else, is my priority with this project.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the PCAPP project, and to wish you a new year filled with opportunities, accomplishments and reasons to be proud. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact our outreach staff at (719) 546-0400.

New Bechtel Position to Strengthen Sister Projects

By MIGUEL MONTEVERDE
Bechtel National Inc.

Dr. Craig Myler, until recently Bechtel Pueblo's chief scientist, has left his parent company, Battelle Memorial Institute, to become Bechtel National's new chief engineer for process and technology in Frederick, Md.

Myler, originally chief scientist for the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, will be actively involved with both Pueblo and its sister project, the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant in Richmond, Ky.

"Every one of these chemical neutralization projects," said Myler in a recent interview, "builds on a common foundation of safety and sound science. It just makes sense to share experience and lessons learned at every opportunity – not only between projects, but with those senior Bechtel managers who can expedite problem-solving at the highest level."

Dr. Craig Myler (right) briefs Pueblo chemical weapons destruction officials on the munitions treatment unit during a visit to Abbott Furnace in Pennsylvania.

In a parallel move, Battelle Memorial Institute, a teaming partner with Bechtel on all three of its chemical stockpile destruction projects, has named Dan Taylor, the current Aberdeen chief scientist, to those same responsibilities at both Pueblo and Blue Grass.

"I've worked with Dan for a long time," said Myler. "I couldn't be more pleased that our personal and professional collaboration will continue on these two important national projects."

Photo by Paul Dent

Hydrolysate Talks Continue, Summer Decision Expected

By SANDY ROMERO
Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

Whether to ship mustard agent hydrolysate off site for treatment continues to be an important topic of discussion within the community as next steps are discussed for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

Once the plant becomes operational and the mustard agent is neutralized, a byproduct called hydrolysate is produced. Hydrolysate is a dark colored liquid that is 90 percent water and salts plus a small amount of a chemical called thiodiglycol, a common industrial compound used in making ink. The salts consist mostly of sodium chloride.

Shipping the hydrolysate to an existing facility, rather than building one on site, would save both time and money – allowing the project to get under way more quickly.

Although hydrolysate is considered safe to transport, some community members are worried that shipping it outside of Colorado might result in litigation, permitting issues or additional unidentified costs. Opponents of off-site shipment cite the potential decrease in local jobs as a concern.

Michael Parker, program manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, visited Pueblo recently to address this issue with approximately 30 community members at a community roundtable. "I'm obligated to look at off-site shipment and pursue the cost-savings of approximately $150 million if hydrolysate is shipped to a commercially permitted treatment storage facility," Parker said.

A decision regarding whether hydrolysate will be shipped off site or treated on site is expected to be made by summer. A series of public meetings are being planned for early next year, so all interested parties can come together to make a decision that will be best for the community and the project.

Public meeting notices will be advertised in *The Pueblo Chieftain*, and mailed to community members on the Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office mailing list. To be added to the list, please call the outreach office at (719) 546-0400.

New Leadership at Helm of Chemical Materials Agency

By SANDY ROMERO
Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency's (CMA) leadership changed hands in January.

Leaving CMA is Michael A. Parker, who has been serving in dual roles as director of CMA and as the program manager for the Department of Defense's Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, or ACWA, program. Replacing Parker is Dale A. Ormond, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate.

"Mike Parker has successfully guided the chemical demilitarization program in Pueblo and has gained the respect and support of our community," said John Klomp, chairman of the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission. Pueblo and the nation will continue to benefit from Mike's efforts to destroy the chemical weapons stockpile that pose a threat to national security. Mike Parker is a leader, a gentleman and a great supporter of the Pueblo Community."

Participants in the change of command ceremony at the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency stand at attention during the National Anthem. From left are Michael A. Parker, former CMA director; Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command; Dale A. Ormond, CMA acting director; and Dean G. Popps, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology.

Parker has led CMA since the agency's inception in February 2003. He has served as the ACWA program manager since December 1996.

Photo courtesy of CMA

Local Hires Account for One-Third of Project Staff

By JOHN SCHLATTER
Bechtel Pueblo Team

The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) characterizes the distinctive flavor of Pueblo, with about one-third of its on-site staff hired from the local area by Bechtel Pueblo Team (BPT), the systems contractor.

Located in the Process Support Building on the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, the BPT, which includes subcontractors Battelle Memorial Institute, Parsons and Washington Demilitarization Company, currently has about 60 employees in Pueblo.

"Our Pueblo staff is a combination of career employees from Bechtel and our teaming partners who moved to Pueblo, and people we hire locally," explained Valerie McCain, Bechtel's deputy project manager. "We've been fortunate to find some very talented people who have learned our systems and procedures and are key members of our project team."

One local hire, Tanya Musso, administrative assistant to Bechtel Program Manager Paul Henry, had been laid off from her position with the State of Colorado after 10 years. "I was waiting for Bechtel to come here," said Musso, who had read about the project in the local paper. "I was one of the first three local hires."

"Being a part of the PCAPP project is priceless," said another local hire, Christine Jaramillo. "My co-workers on the project team consistently make my job a pleasure."

All paperwork on the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant project is processed by Jackie Gold (left) and Mary Griego, document control clerks for Bechtel.

Pueblo's Weapons Destruction Project Local Hires

Bechtel

- Kim Denslow, *administrative assistant*
- Kathy Flores, *administrative assistant*
- Jackie Gold, *document control clerk*
- Mary Griego, *document control clerk*
- Zachary Herlyck, *construction field engineer*
- Christine Jaramillo, *administrative assistant*
- Sacha McNeil, *desktop/network support*
- Tanya Musso, *administrative assistant*
- Alison Pineda, *accountant*
- Sherry Pinkerton, *receptionist/courier*
- Nuvia Powell, *government property specialist*
- John Pukajlo, *surety manager*
- Pat Siers, *Bechtel Procurement Systems coordinator and Source administrator*
- Kristal Sirles, *project controls engineer*
- Cathy Snell, *administrative assistant*
- Cora Strickland, *administrative assistant*
- Jennifer Wilson, *project registered nurse*

Battelle

- Norietta Canetti, *administrative analyst*

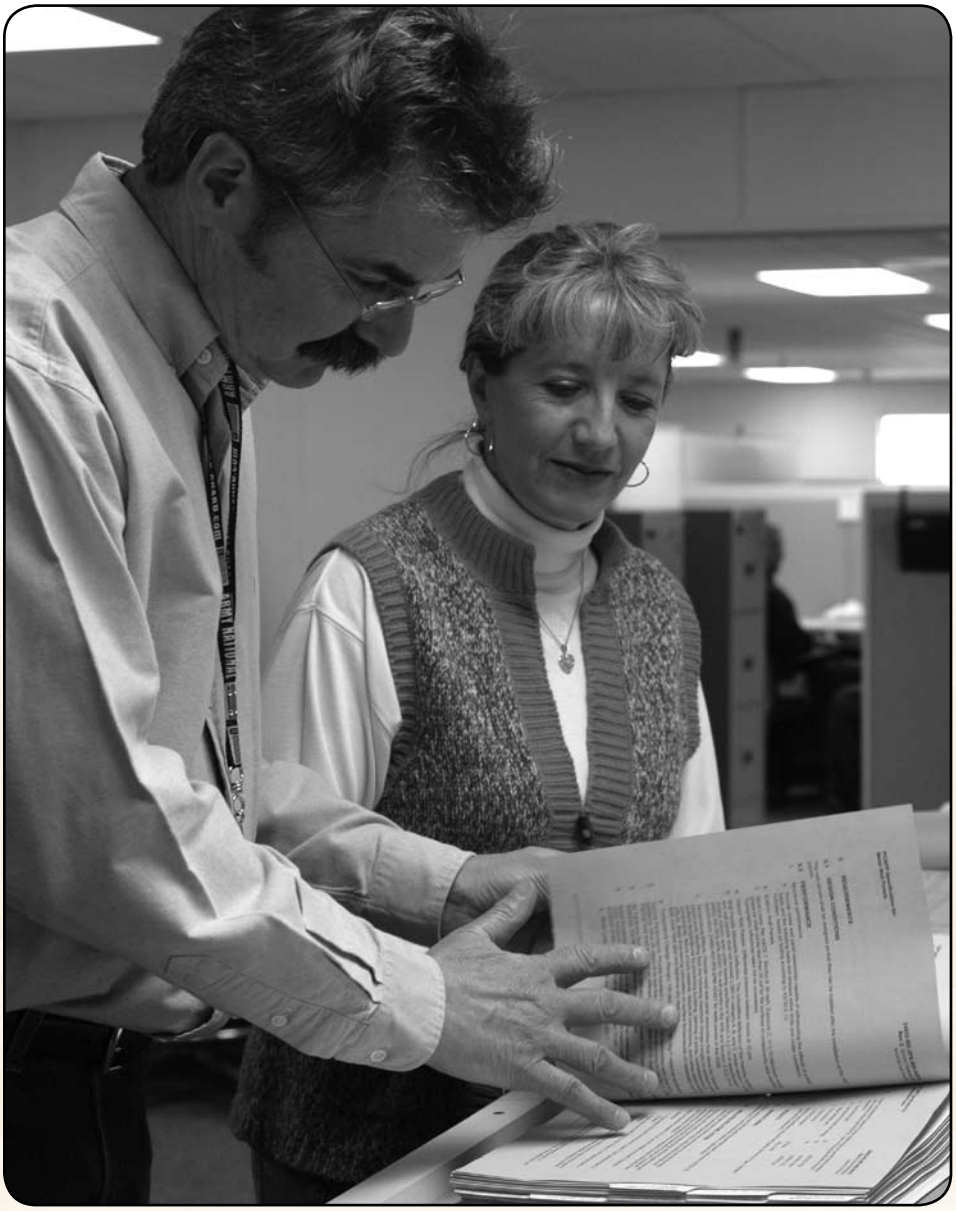
Washington Demilitarization Company

- Shannon Brooks, *operations and management administrative assistant*
- Rachael Calkins, *administrative assistant to the plant manager*
- Bryan Martinez, *facilities maintenance coordinator*
- Chris Snyder, *project controls analyst*

The local BPT staff will grow only slightly as the pilot plant is built over the next few years, as most of the construction work will be done by subcontractors. Significant hiring will begin later as BPT begins to employ and train staff who will operate the plant.

Many of those operating employees will have to meet the requirements of the Army's Personnel Reliability Program (PRP). The Army and its contractors handle chemical weapons carefully in order to protect workers, the public and the environment. The PRP is a major part of this commitment to safety and security. The purpose of the program is to ensure that each person who performs duties involving chemical agents meets and maintains the highest possible standards of reliability.

Determining whether a person qualifies to work in a PRP position includes initial evaluations at the time of hiring and continuing evaluations once the person is employed. This evaluation includes medical tests and an extensive background investigation. A fact sheet on the PRP is available from the outreach office or on the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Web site, www.pmacwa.army.mil.



Bechtel Project Field Engineer Bill Tate reviews construction documents with Administrative Assistant Cathy Snell.

As the facilities maintenance manager, Bryan Martinez of Washington Demilitarization Group is responsible for keeping the office functioning properly.

Photos by Sandy Romero

Low Water Consumption Projected for Pilot Plant

By SANDY ROMERO
Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

Exactly how much water will the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) use once the plant is operating?

This question is important because of the recent drought in southern Colorado. Some citizens have voiced concerns that the neutralization technology, selected to destroy the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot's stockpile of mustard-agent filled chemical weapons, would use excessive amounts of water.

During the operation of the plant, water will be used by the PCAPP facility for:

- Treating sanitary sewage
- Neutralizing the mustard agent
- Cooling the process equipment

The answer to the question above depends on whether the byproduct of hydrolysate is treated off site or on site. Hydrolysate (see page 3) is the substance left after the mustard agent goes through the neutralization process. If hydrolysate is treated on site, then the plant will consume about 58,000 gallons of water per day, or 54 million gallons of water during the operating life of the PCAPP plant. If hydrolysate is treated off site, then it is estimated that approximately 84,000 gallons of water per day (30 million gallons per year, which is equal to the annual water usage of 205 American households) will be used, or about 79 million gallons during the operating life of the plant. On-site treatment of hydrolysate lowers water usage because of the water recycling process that will be used.

All the water used by the plant will come from a series of wells on depot property, but purchased from the Pueblo Board of Water Works and the Colorado Water Protection Development Association. The wells give the depot about 177 million gallons of water each year – more than enough to supply the needs of the depot and the PCAPP plant.

Bechtel Engineer Ron Girard inspects culverts that will be used as part of the storm water drainage system near the Process Support Building on the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot grounds.

Water Consumption Summary

Total gallons consumed over PCAPP operating life

On-site Hydrolysate Treatment: Water recycling utilized

58,000 gallons per day = **54 million gallons**

Off-site Hydrolysate Treatment: No recycling utilized

84,000 gallons per day = **79 million gallons**

Photo by John Schlatter

Employee Corner

By SANDY ROMERO, Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

New Year to Bring Opportunities for Computer Expert

Sacha McNeil, in the server room, updates the server as part of his information technology duties for Bechtel.

This year is looking to be an exciting one for Sacha McNeil, the networking and systems administrator for Bechtel Pueblo Team.

McNeil, who has been working towards a master's degree in Computer Information Systems, will earn his degree in March. As a result, he will take on added responsibilities for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant project. "I'm going to be designing the computer infrastructure for the network in the temporary construction facilities," McNeil said. "It's a practical application of what I've been learning in school."

Going to work for Bechtel was a good career stop for McNeil, who has had an aptitude for information technology ever since college. Though he received a bachelor's degree in political science from Colorado State University, he has always been interested in computers, having had his own business building custom computers and working for computer giant Microsoft. So, he was thrilled when Bechtel offered him a job in 2004 – a job he applied for before he went to work for Microsoft. "I'd heard of Bechtel while in college," he said. "I couldn't believe they had a job opening so close to home."

McNeil, 32, was born in England but grew up in Colorado Springs. Today, he enjoys playing flag football and spending time with his wife and two boys, ages 6 and 2.

Chemical Weapons Experience Routes Employee to Pueblo

Brad Still works through environmental-related issues with Chris Hambric, physical scientist for the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program.

In 2000, Brad Still left the Umatilla, Ore., home he had known for several years to move to Pueblo to work in the U.S. Army's Environmental Management Office (EMO).

"We are fortunate he chose to work here," said Kathryn Cain, chief of the EMO. "We needed a good environmental protection specialist."

Still has spent most of his government career as a Quality Assurance Specialist – Ammunition Surveillance (QASAS). Assignments include tours at Johnston Island in the Pacific Ocean and Umatilla Chemical Depot.

Now the operations manager for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, Still works with the team that reviews the plant design for environmental, safety and surety issues.

After graduating from New Mexico State University with a finance degree, Still came upon an opening in the government for a QASAS. After attending QASAS school in Savannah, Ill., he went to work at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. Soon after, he volunteered to serve in Operation Desert Storm where he destroyed defective munitions.

Still lives in Pueblo West. When he's not at work, he likes spending time with his wife, daughter, 17 and son, 12, and golfing.

Photos by Sandy Romero

Chemical Weapons Destruction Project Moves Forward

Survey stakes mark the outline of the multi-purpose building slated for construction this spring. This 30,000-square-foot building is located on the south side of the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant site and is the primary maintenance and support center for the plant.

It will include laundry equipment, warehouse space and facilities for fitting and issuing masks and other protective clothing. Additionally, most maintenance work will be planned and executed from this location.

Photo by John Schlatter

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